

REMARKS**1.) Claim Amendments**

Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the Examiner's rejection by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 therein. Thus, claim 2 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-21, 23-30, 32-43 and 45-55 are pending in the present patent application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,374 issued to Fawaz et al. (hereinafter "Fawaz"). The Examiner also indicates 2 contains allowable subject matter and such indication is greatly appreciated. In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 2, which is now cancelled. Accordingly, the amended independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claims should now be patentably distinguishable over Fawaz.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 4-21, 23-30, 32-43 and 45-55 are presently standing in this patent application. In view of the foregoing remarks, each and every point raised in the Office Action mailed on February 8, 2005 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in this patent application to be in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections are respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner believe that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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